

June 26, 2014 Community Discussion Meeting - **Downtown YMCA**
 "Education Interest Area"

Question Responses and Small-Table Discussion Summary

Attendance - 10 people (plus 1 Committee member and 2 staff)

Identifying long-term investment spending priorities; Determining how best for Wichita to grow over the next 20 years -

QUESTION: Prioritize future City spending within the following three general categories of infrastructure investment (Priority #1, #2, #3) (7 complete responses)

<u>Spending Priority</u>	<u>Categories of Investment</u>		
43% #1	43% #2	14% #3	Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has
29% #1	57% #2	14% #3	Making enhancements to what the city currently has
29% #1	0% #2	71% #3	Expanding the city's current system of public assets

QUESTION: Check future City spending priorities within each of the following types of infrastructure projects (8 complete responses)

Maintaining and replacing what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Repairing and maintaining existing local streets</i>	0	1	7
<i>Replacing and maintaining aging water & sewer lines</i>	0	1	7
<i>Maintaining existing parks and recreation centers</i>	3	3	2
<i>Maintaining existing cultural arts and entertainment facilities</i>	2	4	2
<i>Maintaining existing libraries</i>	3	2	3
<i>Maintaining existing transit system</i>	0	2	5
<i>Maintaining existing fire and police facilities</i>	1	3	4

Expanding the city's current system of public assets:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Constructing the NW Bypass (Goddard to Maize)</i>	6	0	1
<i>Adding new streets</i>	4	4	0
<i>Adding new water & sewer lines</i>	2	4	2
<i>Adding sewer treatment plant capacity</i>	0	5	3
<i>Adding new parks</i>	2	4	2
<i>Adding new fire stations and upgrading police facilities</i>	3	3	2

Making enhancements to what the city currently has:	<u>Spending Priority</u>		
	Low	Med.	High
<i>Kellogg freeway improvements to Goddard and Butler County</i>	2	2	3
<i>Constructing South Area Parkway Bypass (around south Wichita)</i>	6	0	2
<i>Securing long-term water supply</i>	0	0	8
<i>Upgrading existing parks</i>	3	4	1
<i>Upgrading existing cultural arts & entertainment facilities</i>	3	4	1
<i>Upgrading existing libraries</i>	4	1	3
<i>Major transit system/service improvements (Transit Vision 2013)</i>	0	4	4

DISCUSSION: *What projects and investments are most critical to Wichita's future?*

- Investments in securing a long-term water supply
- Focusing future investment in securing a strong downtown and urban core
- Maintaining our current infrastructure assets
- Investing in arts/culture facilities
- Investing in revamped/retooled libraries ("media centers") to enhance quality of life and bring on-line technology access to all in our community
- Improving our existing public transit system, especially for the disadvantaged in our community
- Effective reuse of older abandoned school buildings
- Making investments (jobs and infrastructure) that will keep younger people in our community

QUESTION: *Recognizing that growth in all areas of Wichita is necessary for enhancing the quality of life in our community, rank the following three Wichita growth areas according to which you think **best** supports the future growth, prosperity and quality of life of our community (1=best, 2=second best, 3=third best) (7 complete responses)*

Rank

1 Established Urban Core	100% best	0% 2 nd best	0% 3 rd best
2 Downtown	0% best	100% 2 nd best	0% 3 rd best
3 Suburbs	0% best	0% 2 nd best	100% 3 rd best

% of Respondents Currently Living in:

Established Urban Core	83%
Downtown	0%
Suburbs	17%
Other	0%

DISCUSSION: *How best should Wichita grow over the next 20 years?*

- Focus our public investment in the urban core and downtown
- Create low-interest loans to encourage home improvements and repairs, landscaping awards

Creating an effective infrastructure investment decision-making process for the long-term -

DISCUSSION: *What would you want an elected official to consider when making decisions about investing in new capital projects, modifying existing projects, or eliminating existing capital projects?*

- Will the investment support economic development and job creation in our community, or expand our tax base?
- Ensure that there is a sufficient return on investment to provide for the long-term maintenance of that investment
- Does the investment serve all in our community?
- Ensure that the investment will help create and foster a healthy community
- Ask whether the investment is useful or needed
- Invest in things that will promote quality of life in our community
- Invest to help support a strong public school system
- Revenue generation needed to support investment should be fair in impacting residents of our community
- Future investments are needed that will provide a broader range of accessibility within our community, especially for the elderly and handicapped

Establishing important infrastructure investment decision-making criteria and considerations -

QUESTION: Listed below are important criteria and considerations to guide future community infrastructure investment spending and cost-reduction decisions. Please check the two (2) **most** important and the two (2) **least** important. (8 complete responses)

Importance		<u>Decision-making criteria & considerations</u>
<u>Least</u>	<u>Most</u>	
0	6	Promotes economic growth and job creation
2	3	Advances our community quality of life
1	3	Advances community health and safety
0	3	Creates a place where future generations will want to live, work and play
5	0	Priority as identified in existing adopted plans (e.g. the city/county comprehensive plan)
2	1	Essential for the future physical growth and development of our community
3	0	Demonstrated ability and commitment to maintain the project
1	0	Other: 'Keeping up with the Jones' mentality

DISCUSSION: What are the most important decision-making criteria?

- Investments that promote job growth and quality of life in our community
- Investments that maintain and sustain our current infrastructure

Any other things or issues needing to be addressed or considered in the Community Investments Plan? -

DISCUSSION:

- None